

passengers verbally accosted him. Upon their arrival, the frightened driver exited his car and tried to flee, but the pair caught hold of him and began beating him in the motel parking lot.

I believe that Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.●

TRIBUTE TO FORT KNOX GAME WARDENS

● Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the volunteers of the Fort Knox Game Warden Program for their longstanding commitment to the community. These volunteers assist the Provost Marshal, the Hunt Control and the Range Control offices in maintaining the hunting program's outstanding safety record by enforcing the Fort Knox and Kentucky Fish and Game regulations on the base's 170 square miles.

The program's loyal volunteers have an active role in the community, especially during the deer-hunting season when they operate the deer check stations and monitor hunter activities. Their efforts also have enhanced the natural habitat of the area's wildlife. Throughout the program's 50-year life, volunteers have planted food plots, developed wildlife sanctuaries and re-introduced wild quail to the environment.

These unsung heroes actively devote time to serving the post's six hunting zones consisting of 109,000 acres. They help protect both small and large game including squirrel, dove, rabbit, quail and turkey. In addition to the three weekends available each year for adult firearms deer hunting, the Game Warden Program sponsors a youth gun hunt for one weekend each year.

I would like to acknowledge each of the volunteers for their time and commitment protecting the community and surrounding environment: Donald Buhl, George Phelps, Bob Sherrard, Jack Baxter, Bill Schweiss, Alfred Maruszewski, Michael Dages, Charlie Flowers, Wayne Walters, Gerald Sasser, Jr., Daniel Clifford, Tim Dages, Kenny Kine, Ron O'Bannon, Harold Scott, Walter Sholar, Hugh Harris, William Magruder, James Elliott, Robbie Ammons, James Miller, Jackie Payne, Willard Campbell, Joseph Banks, Michael Gaddie, Richard McQuillen, Mary McQuillen, Wayne Creekmore, Gary Thompson, Martha Campbell, Karl Rohland, Ace Clark, James Prather, Mark McNutt, Kelley Argabright, Dr. Gerald Sasser, Tony Parsley, Crockett Banks, Dwayne Campbell, and Rodney Circle.

The Fort Knox Game Warden Program and its volunteers have faithfully served the community for many years, and their contributions should not be

overlooked. On behalf of myself and my colleagues in the Senate, I thank them for their dedicated service to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.●

IN RECOGNITION OF CAPTAIN GABRIEL GRIESS

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my congratulations to a Nebraska native son. This gentleman is among the many who honor our Nation through their service in our Armed Forces and I am very pleased to have this opportunity to pay tribute to him.

As our Nation faces threats abroad and our military men and women fight to keep us safe, it is important for us to never forget the sacrifices made in our defense. These men and women give up a great deal to protect our Nation and we owe them a debt of gratitude that can never be fully repaid.

Today, it is my honor to offer my heartfelt congratulations to one of their number, CAPT Gabriel Griess, a hometown Nebraska hero. Captain Griess is a proud member of the U.S. Air Force and he has recently been named the 15th Air Force Company Grade Officer of the Year for 2002. This was no easy accomplishment as the criteria for the award ensures that only the best of the best are eligible for consideration. To meet those criteria, Captain Griess had to show clear drive, pursuit of self-improvement, and involvement in base and community activities. Captain Griess met and exceeded all expectations.

He was awarded this title based on his dedication, leadership, and professionalism. Captain Griess' military history speaks volumes about the confidence placed in him by his superiors. He was deployed twice in 2002 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom; given missions such as tracking down al-Qaida leaders, and evacuating critically injured troops from combat zones. He provided support during Operation Anaconda by flying in critical supplies, destroying al-Qaida strongholds, and providing air support for ground troops. He has earned three Air Medals and two Aerial Achievement Medals for his valiant work.

But perhaps more importantly, he has won the respect of his peers. As an instructor navigator with the 317th Airlift Group at Dyess Air Force Base in Texas, he is recognized as the "go to" guy, an officer who will work as part of the team to meet the challenges ahead.

As our military efforts continue in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other regions around the world, we rely on the men and women in uniform to make our Nation safe. With soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines of the caliber of Captain Griess, I can say with complete confidence our Nation is secure.

I congratulate Captain Griess on this recognition he has so deservedly received. It is truly an honor for him and his family.●

IN RECOGNITION OF MOSAIC

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today I would like to offer my best wishes and support for the beginning of a new organization—Mosaic. On July 1, 2003, Bethphage, founded in Axtell, NE, in 1914, and Martin Luther Home Society, founded in Sterling, NE, in 1925 will come together to form Mosaic. These two organizations bring decades' worth of experience to the field of developmental disabilities, and I applaud their previous efforts while looking forward to a successful partnership. I have enjoyed a great working relationship with Sharon Walters and Bethphage and appreciate the positive things they have brought to the State of Nebraska. Mosaic will be supporting and advocating for more than 3,700 people in 16 States with an annual budget of approximately \$165 million. They also provide support in Great Britain, as well as participating in an international alliance called IMPACT. Congratulations, Mosaic.●

A TRIBUTE TO BAKER'S CREEK

● Mrs. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, in the recent years, there have been many tributes dedicated to celebrating members of what Tom Brokaw so rightly called "The Greatest Generation." Succeeding generations have honored the men and women who led America to victory during World War II, who did nothing less than save the world. The events of World War II have become a shining moment in American history, and the stories of battles and life on the home front are well known by most Americans. However, many stories remain untold, and many heroes remain unrecognized.

As we count on our soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and coast guardsmen to defend our Nation in today's time of war, we have a renewed appreciation of the sacrifices made by our men and women in uniform and their families.

Our recent military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq provide an excellent backdrop to tell a story from World War II involving a little-known Texas hero. It is my hope we can join together to honor this man and those whose lives were lost on the fateful day he survived.

June 14 is an historic day in the life of our Nation. On this day in 1775, the United States Army was born. Two years later, broad red stripes on a field of white, and bright stars on a field of blue were officially adopted as our country's banner. In 1949, President Truman signed an Act of Congress officially declaring June 14 as National Flag Day to honor our colors. June 14 also marks a somber anniversary, one that few of us know.

Sixty years ago, on June 14, 1943, 40 Americans were killed when their B-17C airplane crashed in a field near Baker's Creek, five miles south of Mackay in Queensland, Australia. The plane belonged to the 46th Troop Carrier Squadron, Fifth U.S. Air Force.